AIR Station, Pithoragarh

f813. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AIR Station of Pithoragarh (Uttaranchal) has become operational;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. AIR Station at Pithoragarh has been operational since 10.6.1997.

(c) Does not arise.

Manufacturing of Set Top Box

814. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Set Top Box (STB) is indigenously manufactured in the country;

(b) if not, whether the STBs would be imported for which the import duty has been reduced from 46 per cent to 5 per cent;

(c) whether Government are aware that the imported digital STBs (MPEG-2) which Government are going to provide are technologically an outdated one;

(d) if so, whether the people would be interested rather forced to buy these outdated STBs with the change to the fibre optic cables; and

(e) whether Government are in hurry to force Conditional Access System in the cable network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b)

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.